

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 14271 01 OF 02 070910Z
ACTION EAP-00

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-05 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-00
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-01 PM-03 INRE-00 /010 W
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O 070458Z DEC 87
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5721
INFO COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SEOUL 14271

LIMDIS
USCINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PTER, KS, KN, BA
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S REQUESTS REGARDING KAL 858,
DECEMBER 7

REF: SEOUL 14203

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER CHOI KWANG SOO ASKED AMBASSADOR TO
MEET WITH HIM DECEMBER 7 REGARDING KAL 858. ALSO PRESENT
WERE ASIA BUREAU DIR GEN SOH BYUNG YONG AND POLCOUNS.
CHOI SAID ROKG APPRECIATED EFFORTS OF THAI AND BURMA TO
LOCATE AIRCRAFT. ROKG NOW CONCLUDED PLANE MUST HAVE
EXPLODED OVER SEA BEFORE REACHING TAVOY. CHOI WAS NOW
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THINKING OF WITHDRAWING THE AD HOC TASK FORCES FROM
BANGKOK AND RANGOON AFTER ONE LAST LAND SEARCH. THE
EMBASSIES WOULD CONTINUE, OF COURSE, BUT MOFA HAD TO
PREPARE FOR A LONGER AND WIDER SEARCH. SOME FAMILIES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAMUEL V SMITH
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 25X6
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 7 DEC 2022
DATE/CASE ID: 05 AUG 2009 200807065

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WANTED TO GO TO THE AREA AND IF THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS AMONG THEM KAL WOULD FLY THEM TO BANGKOK AND THEN OVER THE ROUTE TAKEN BY KAL 858.

3. CHOI CONTINUED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO TELL THE FAMILIES THE VICTIMS MUST HAVE PERISHED, BUT HE WOULD MAKE A BRIEF STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT TOMORROW AFTERNOON. IN THAT CONNECTION, HE ASKED IF THE USG COULD EMPLOY ITS

[REDACTED] NAVAL FORCES, INCLUDING P-3C ASW AIRCRAFT, TO ASSIST IN THE SEA SEARCH. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED [REDACTED] HE DID NOT THINK WE HAD ANY NAVAL FORCES IN THE IMMEDIATE REGION. CHOI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE U.S. WAS USING SIXTH FLEET ELEMENTS TO SEARCH FOR THE MISSING SOUTH AFRICAN AIRCRAFT. (COMMENT. WE HAVE HEARD ELSEWHERE UNFAVORABLE COMPARISONS OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP SOUTH AFRICA BUT "NO ACTION" FOR KOREA. END COMMENT.) THE AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED OUR EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO ASSIST WITH INFORMATION GATHERING, AND PROMISED TO IMMEDIATELY PASS ALONG THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REQUESTS.

B1

4. CHOI THEN SAID THE WOMAN HAD RECOVERED BUT STILL RESISTED ANSWERING QUESTIONS. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] ASST. MIN. PARK [REDACTED] ~~SECRET~~ UNCLASSIFIED
FOR MANAMA LATER IN THE DAY TO ADVANCE THE KOREAN CASE.

B1

[REDACTED]

6. CHOI CONCLUDED WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT THE WOMAN HAD NOT USED EITHER KOREAN OR JAPANESE WITH INVESTIGATORS, BUT HAD RESPONDED ONCE IN ENGLISH. DIR GEN SOH SAID THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN REPORTED HER TONGUE/PALATE TO HAVE BEEN HURT BY THE EFFECTS OF POISON. CHOI SAID THE ROKG HAD A DC-10 STANDING BY TO BRING THEM BACK IF BAHRAIN AGREED. THE ROKG WAS LEAVING THE MEMORIAL SERVICE UP TO KAL AND THE FAMILIES, BUT CHOI DID NOT EXPECT IT TO BE SOON.

[REDACTED]

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B1

7. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE REGARDING NAVAL SEARCH,
[REDACTED]

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